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AN ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

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MAY 15, 1873.

[No. 82.]

**Newly Issued Stamps.**

BERMUDA, emulating the example of the other West India Islands, has lately added a new stamp to its list. The new comer is similar in design to the current set, but has the circle enclosing the profile of her Britannic Majesty set in an octagon; the name BERMUDA is in a straight line above, the value and occupying a similar space below. It is printed on the usual watermarked paper (c. c. and crown.) The value is three pence, color, orange.

BARBADOES is shortly to follow with two additional values of the same design as the current set. The colors and values are, 3 pence, mauve, and 5 shillings, pale brown. The much-needed improvement of adding the value, is contemplated in the four-penny stamps.

NEW GRANADA.—The 1 centavo stamp, issued by this country last year, is now printed in rose instead of sea green.

FRANCE.—The 10 centime is now printed in brown on pink paper, which is a great improvement over the old color, both in appearance and for use, as it was formerly of the same color as the 15c., and the figures of value being so small, frequent mistakes in using must have occurred.

ICELAND.—The set of stamps for this country have been completed, by the addition of one of the value of 3 skillings. The color is pale grey.

SPAIN is reported to be preparing a new series of stamps.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—The expected post cards for use in this country have just been issued to the public. They have the current one cent stamp in one corner, and a tint resembling the rays of the sun rising from another corner, and covering the face of the stamp. Not having had an opportunity of personally inspecting the card, we are unable to give concise information. The color is green.

### The United States Post Cards.

It was intended to have the cards printed and in use during 1872, but, by a singular oversight, the Forty-second Congress closed its second session, last spring, without making any appropriation for their manufacture, and the matter had thus to go over. The mistake was corrected at the opening of Congress in December, when an appropriation of \$800,000 was voted for the manufacture of Postal Cards and stamped envelopes. The Postmaster General advertised for proposals to manufacture the postal cards, January 23, and on the 27th of February, the contract was awarded to Morgan Envelope Company of this city, who offered to furnish the cards at \$1.39 7-8 per thousand. The next highest bidder was George H. Reay, of New York, whose price was \$1.59 1-4 per thousand. The whole number of competitors was 14. The contractors agree to furnish one hundred million cards the first year, and more if required. The orders received at the department already amount to over 30,000,000, and are increasing every day, so that the Postmaster General calculates that at least 130,000,000 cards will be called for the first year.

The cards are to be printed on what is known as "bond paper," that is a paper which is worked together in a solid sheet without pasting. They will be five and one-eighth inches long, by three inches wide, and are of two shades of velvet-brown, bearing on one side a stamp with the "liberty" head, surrounded by the words U. S. POSTAGE ONE CENT, in lathe work, and having besides the words UNITED STATES POSTAL CARD. Printed across the face are lines for the address, with the letters U. S. P. O. D., one-and-a-half inches long, in a watermark across the body of the card. The weight is to be six pounds to the thousand.

By the terms of the contract, the manufacturers must have 500,000 cards ready for delivery May 1, and a gang of workmen are busy get-

ting the east part of the ground floor of the Morgan Envelope Company's Factory, on Worthington Street, ready for the printing apparatus. The walls of that section of the building are of brick, and consequently fire-proof, but the ceiling of the room has been strengthened by a coating of corrugated iron, which will be covered with mortar. The whole of No. 84 will be given up to the manufacture, which will employ sixteen hands. The press, of which mention was recently made in *The Union*, will be capable of striking off 35,000 cards per hour, or 350,000 per day. The agent, who will have a general superintendence of the manufacture as well as the forwarding, will have his office and that of his clerks in the front part of the room facing the street. In the rear a fire-proof vault is to be erected, 23 feet wide, 40 feet long, and 10 feet high, large enough to hold 15,000,000 cards. The walls of the vault are to be 12 inches thick. There will be one entrance from the rear of the work-room, by means of a doorway three by six and one-half feet. This will be protected by double iron doors.

The Morgan Envelope Company, which will fill this important contract for the coming four years, is among the most energetic and successful of our many manufacturing concerns. Upon a small beginning they have built up a large business in the making and sale of envelopes, and have combined therewith several kindred manufactures, which have also assumed large proportions. All the articles from their factory heretofore have been characterised by neatness and tastefulness, so that as stationers, as well as envelope makers, their goods have become widely popular. There is every reason, therefore, to expect that the new postal cards will be neatly and handsomely gotten up, and so be a credit to the concern, and satisfactory to government and people.

There has been much speculation as to the merits and demerits of the postal card system, many claiming that it will be used as a means of blackmailing and venting personal spleen, as has been the case to some extent in England, where the system has been in vogue some time. But the present postal regulations provide that any letter or package having on its envelope gross or obscene words shall be sent to the dead letter office, and this law will of course apply to postal cards. No sooner had the system been voted than private parties began getting up postal cards on their own hook and sending them through the mail, with the usual one cent stamp affixed. As each card bore an inscription similar to the following: "Lipman's postal card, patent applied for," every one making its appearance at the post office, is confiscated and sent to the dead letter office at Washington. Without the postal inscription the cards would have been allowed to pass like other mail matter.—*Springfield Union*.

### A Letter Carrier's Review.

(Continued from page 74.)

#### EARLY POST ROUTE AND FACILITIES.

It was not till 1692 that the first regular city post-office was established by the municipal government. In 1710 the Postmaster-General of Great Britain established a chief letter office, to which all letters brought by ships were directed to be sent. In 1711 post routes were established between New York and Boston and Albany, the mails being carried about twice a month on horseback. In 1740 similar arrangements were made between New York and Philadelphia. The Post-Office was then situated in Broadway, opposite Bowling-green, and the name of the first Postmaster of whom there is any record was Richard Nichol. In 1753 Benjamin Franklin was appointed Postmaster-General for the Colonies, with a small salary, conditional upon the postal revenue realizing that amount. In 1756 the postage to England by the first mail packets was four pennweights of silver. In 1764 the mail service between New York and Philadelphia was changed from twice a month to twice a week, and till some years after the Revolution a boy with saddle-bags carried the mails without overloading his horse. Then a sulky was used, and the people were lost in amazement at the progress of internal improvements when a four-horse stage was found necessary. Now, a large mail-car, making four or five trips a day, is hardly sufficient to transport the mails between these two cities.

In 1765 Alexander Colder succeeded Richard Nichol as Postmaster of the City of New York, which position he held till the breaking out of the Revolution. When the British took possession of the city the Post Office was abolished, and for more than seven years all communication by writing not connected with the army of occupation had to be carried on by stealth. William Bedlew was the first Postmaster after the war. Sebastian Bauman succeeded him in 1786, in which year the first city directory, containing 926 names, was published. The postal revenue for that year amounted to \$2,789 84; the revenue for the past year was \$2,650,000, exclusive of the money order department. The first Postmaster General after the establishment of the Federal Government was Samuel Osgood. He assumed his duties in 1789, in the City of New York. There were at this time 75 Government post-offices, and 1,875 miles of post roads. There are now 31,863 post offices and 251,393 miles of post roads. In 1790, when the seat of Government was removed from New York to Philadelphia, the latter city had three letter carriers, New York having only one. There are now employed in the New York Post Office 606 clerks, and 317 carriers and collectors—a total of 923. The carriers deliver daily an average of 90,000



domestic letters, 55,000 city letters, and over 20,000 newspapers and circulars. This is exclusive of those delivered through the boxes, which increases the number one-third.

In 1803, Josiah Ten Eyek succeeded Bauman, but after a year's service was followed by Theodorus Bailey, who held the position for nearly a quarter of a century. He removed the Post Office from Broadway, to No. 29 William St., at Garden St., now Exchange Place. Here boxes were first established for delivery. They were 144 in number, and filled one of the front windows on the ground floor. Postmaster Bailey and his family occupied the upper part of the building as a residence. His name appears signed to a set of resolutions resenting the assumptions of Great Britain relative to the impressment of American seamen. When the war of 1812 broke out, nearly all the male citizens of New York were employed in some way in helping to put the city in a state defense. Archibald Forrester, whose son Charles is now employed in the post office, was among the post office employes who divided their time between their ordinary duties and labor on the earthworks.

#### WHAT FIFTY YEARS HAVE DONE.

In 1822, a high board fence was built along the line of Duane and Harrison Sts., to shut in the yellow fever which raged in the lower part of the city, and the post office was removed to a house in Greenwich Village, at Bank and Fourth Sts. A single trip of a one-horse furniture wagon was sufficient to remove the entire contents of the office. Now, the daily sale of stamps amounts to about \$8,500; the number of letters stamped daily in the office is 250,000; the number of circulars is 60,000; of drop letters, over 80,000; and 1,100 canvas bags, and 600 leather bags or lock-ups are sent daily from the office. The total weight is nearly 80 tons, with nearly an equal weight coming in. On some Saturdays, with the addition of the foreign mails, the gross weight sent out is 125 tons.

In the fall of 1832, the post office was removed to its old quarters in William St. The population of the city did not then number more than 150,000, and Canal St., formed the extreme northern limit of the city. In 1825, the General Government leased the Academy building in Garden St., which was used as a post office till 1827, when the basement of the new Merchants' Exchange was leased. It stood on the site of the present Custom House. About this time the up-town delivery limits were extended to Houston and Fourth Sts. The franking privilege was freely used in those days. A Congressman from New Jersey rode his mare to Washington during Jackson's first term, and then franked her back to New York, to which place she was led tied to the mail coach.

Gen. Bailey died in September, 1828, and Samuel Gouverneur was appointed his successor. His cousin, known as "little Sam," was the first regularly appointed cashier. In the great fire of December, 1835, the Post Office was burned, and the mail matter was temporarily removed to Pine Street, near Nassau, and in a few days to the Rotunda in the City Hall Park. In 1836, James Page, who had previously been Postmaster of Philadelphia, succeeded Gouverneur; but in six weeks gave place to Jonathan J. Coddington, who built an addition to the Rotunda, and established a branch office in Chatham Square, and a letter delivery in the Merchants' Exchange. President Tyler removed Coddington and appointed John L. Graham.

#### THE DUTCH CHURCH OCCUPIED.

In order to secure the present location of the post office, \$50,000 was raised by down-town merchants, which with \$300,000 given by the Department, was sufficient to purchase the "Middle Dutch Church." The Government expended \$80,000 in fitting it up, and in 1845, the post-office was removed to its present location. In 1845, Robert H. Morris succeeded Graham. Street boxes were first established in that year. About this time, also, letter postage was reduced from five and ten cents to three cents.—*To be continued.*

### Answers to Correspondents.

#### ONLY AN AMERICAN.

EDITOR "THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY":—

My Dear Sir:—It is a matter of great regret that American collectors should occasionally be the means of unearthing any thing in the philatelic line; every thing should be left to European amateurs. If, perchance, the discovery has the misfortune to be connected with American postage stamps, the whole affair is either derided "in toto," or else referred to in the foreign journals as a thing long since known, that is to be found in the "princely collection" of Dr. or Baron so-and-so,—and that it is singular the American discoverer was so far behind the times.

The (small) 6c., 1857, U. S. envelope, described as being *entire*, and to be found in Mr. P——'s collection, turns out to be a *cut* reprint, and therefore Mr. P. doubts the existence of an original; but we can produce the latter, if necessary, *uncut*, *simon-pure* and all.

But it is particularly in relation to the *rarest* of our U. S. envelopes that I desire to say a few words. A copy of Die 1, Type 1, of the 8c. 1858 issue, with loops 7-7, (as fully described in No. 74 of your excellent Journal), was quite recently sold to a well-known Britisher for £2 sterling, and the purchaser considered it a great prize. A companion to this stamp was sent Mons'r Moens, of Brussels, at the same figure (50 frs.) He, after keeping it since October, retains it with this comment: "If Mr. — is fool enough to pay 50 francs for one, I am not. I would not give 50 centimes for it." Poor Moens, he wasn't smart enough to see that it was a *different*—very *different* die from what he supposed it to be—the common variety. If it had only been a Moldavian with "crumpled horn," he would doubtless have gone into extacies. However it was *only an American*.

Sincerely yours,

WILLARD A. FREEMAN.

## Sets of Unused Stamps.

	VARIETY.	DOL.
Alace and Loraine,	6	\$0.10
Argentine Republic, 1867,	3	1.00
Austria, 1867,	7	1.00
Austrian Italy, 1857,	7	1.00
Azores, 1868,	9	3.00
Bahamas,	4	1.50
Barbadoes, 1861,	5	1.50
Belgium, 1861,	4	50
" 1866,	8	1.25
" 1869,	9	1.00
Bergedorf,	5	25
Brazil, 1866,	8	1.25
British Columbia, 1861-9,	10	5.00
Canada, 1868,	7	75
" 1870,	5	20
Confederate States, 1861-3,	11	8.50
Denmark, 1871,	6	1.50
Hamburg,	10	50
Heligoland,	4	50
Italy, 1856,	7	75
" 1863,	10	1.50
" 1870,	9	2.00
Maderia, 1868,	9	2.50
Mecklenburg Schwerin,	6	35
Mexico, 1864,	5	2.50
" 1867,	4	5.00
Modena, 1852,	7	50
" 1859,	5	50
Newfoundland, 1860,	5	2.00
Oldenburgh, 1866,	5	25
Prussia, 1861,	6	25
" 1867,	5	25
Roumania, 1862,	3	1.00
" 1865,	3	30
Russia, 1857-64,	7	1.50
Sandwich Island, 1853,	2	1.00
" " 1864-6,	2	35
" " 1871,	3	50
Saxony, 1863,	6	10
Schleswig, Schleswig Holstein, and Holstein,	14	1.00
Sewin, 1869,	8	1.00
Shanghai, 1865,	8	1.50
Sierra Leone,	5	1.25
South African Republic,	5	1.50
Spain, 1350,	5	10.00
" 1862,	6	1.50
" 1864,	6	1.50
" 1866,	7	1.50
" 1870,	11	2.00
" Official, 1854,	4	25
" " 1855,	4	20
Spanish West Indies, 1857,	4	1.50
" " " 1868,	4	2.00
" " " 1870,	4	1.50
" " " 1871,	4	1.50
" " " 1873	3	50
Sweden, 1872,	9	1.50

	VARIETY.	DOL.
Switzerland, 1854,	7	\$2.50
" 1862-8,	13	2.50
" Envelope, 1867-8,	4	50
Turkey,	5	50
United States, 1851,	8	1.25
" " Newspaper S., 1863,	3	75

## Sets of Used Stamps.

	VARIETY.	DOL.
Antigua,	3	\$0.10
Argentine Republic, 1867,	3	40
Austria, 1867,	7	30
Austrian Italy, 1867,	6	35
Baden, 1861-7,	8	35
Bahamas,	4	30
Belgium, different issues,	15	25
Brazil, 1866,	7	25
Canada,	15	25
Cape good Hope, 1863,	4	10
Ceylon, 1872,	8	50
Chili, 1867,	4	25
Denmark, 1871,	6	25
" Official, 1871,	3	15
Dutch Indies, 1870,	4	30
Egypt, 1867,	5	40
" 1872,	5	25
French Republic, 1849,	5	20
Germany, Southern States, 1852-62,	13	35
Holland, 1852-71,	18	40
Italy, 1856,	6	20
Italy, unpaid letter, 1870,	10	75
Jamaica,	7	25
Mauritius, 1861-70,	8	50
Mexico, 1868,	5	30
" 1872,	5	25
Naples, 1868,	5	25
Natal,	4	25
New South Wales, 1852,	8	3.00
" " " 1861,	3	15
" " " 1864-72,	6	40
New Zealand, 1872,	3	15
Orange States,	3	50
Portugal, 1862,	5	30
" 1871,	8	25
Queensland,	6	25
Russia,	6	25
Salvador,	4	50
Saxony, 1854,	6	20
Sierra Leone,	5	50
Spanish West Indies, 1871,	4	30
Strait Settlements, 1868,	8	40
Switzerland, 1854,	7	20
" Envelopes,	4	10
Tasmania, 1858-63	5	30
Trinidad, 1859,	4	10
Turkey,	5	20
United States,	20	25
Uruguay, 1866,	5	50
Victoria,	20	1.00
Western Australia, 1865,	5	50

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